

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 6-8 and 15-16 without prejudice.

Please enter the following amendments to the claims under examination:

5. An isolated, purified or recombinant peptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

E1 9. (Amended) An isolated, purified or recombinant antibody, specifically immunoreactive under immunologically reactive conditions, to the protein of claim 6 5.

E2 20. (Amended) An isolated, purified or recombinant polynucleotide encoding a telomerase reverse transcriptase protein, wherein said protein:

(i) has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ. ID NO:2; and,
(ii) has telomerase catalytic activity when associated with telomerase RNA component.

21. (Amended) An isolated, purified or recombinant polynucleotide encoding a telomerase reverse transcriptase protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO:2.

22. (Amended) An isolated, purified or recombinant polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.

E3 23. (Amended) An isolated cell transfected with the polynucleotide of claim 20, or progeny thereof.

24. (Amended) An isolated cell transfected with the polynucleotide of claim 21, or progeny thereof.

25. (Amended) An isolated cell transfected with the polynucleotide of claim 22, or progeny thereof.

26. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 20.

27. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 21.

28. A mouse cell in which an endogenous mTERT gene in the cell has been mutated by recombinant means, or progeny of said cell.

E4 31. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 20, encoding a protein that contains at least 10 consecutive amino acids of SEQ. ID NO:2.